



EDITORIAL STAFF



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Keith Wilcox
Evelyn Madsen

Now that the activities have died down somewhat and once again Astoria is back to it's old self, we just have the memories of this week of celebration. Along with the good times and hard work involved in building the float and the work and fun involved in the dance this shouldn't be hard to do. Thanks again to all who helped us out.

By Louise Brenner

GOODBYE TO ONE FRIEND, HELLO TO A NEW ONE

As you all know, Mr. Felix Mantell, former director of the USO here in Astoria, has taken up a new position in California. Temporarily replacing him is Mr. Don Kent who came to us from Tacoma, Washington, where he was program director of the USO. Officially he started here September 1 and he will remain with us for only 2 months at which time a permanent director will be sent. At the end of his 2 months stay he will head back to Tacoma where his wife, Marty, and his little boy, Kim, are residing.

He is not new in his work with the USO for prior to working in Tacoma he was at the USO in San Pedro, California for 2 years. He graduated from the College of the Pacific and took graduate work at Long Beach State College, Whittier College, and the University of Southern California. Although he did not wear the uniform of the Navy Blue, so commonly seen here, he did serve in the U.S. Army for 21 months and spent 1 year in Korea. Prior to his army life he spent 18 months with the merchant marine. It was after this that he took his position in San Pedro.

Don states that he is waiting for the "Astoria Rain" which he evidently has heard so much about. I'm sure that in the near future the weatherman will undoubtedly comply with his wishes. As for an impression of Astoria, I shall not question him for I don't believe he has been here long enough. He states, however, that he is waiting to get in some of that good fishing that we have heard so much about. He enjoys swimming and as a hobby he collects Stan Kenton records.

Boston claimed him for the first 3 months of his life and then California. He lived in the Los Angeles area most of his life. Tacoma claims him, but for the present 2 months, we here in Astoria welcome you and hope your stay with us will be an enjoyable one.

SIGN UP AT THE DECK FOR THE NEXT
USO ACTIVITY!

WE ALWAYS HAVE LOTS OF FUN,

FOOD AND GOOD TIMES!

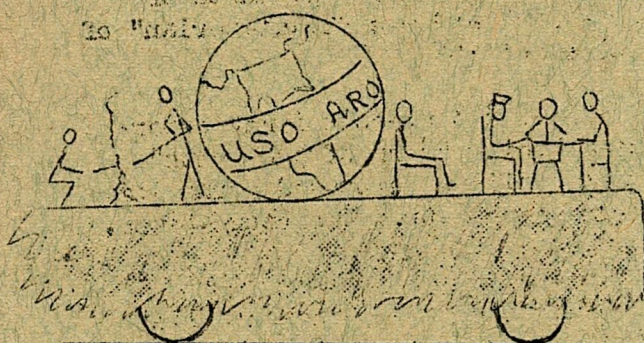
SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

Activities, activities, and more activities! Ah, yes, I am speaking of none other than the recent Sesqui-Centennial celebration held in Astoria. Undoubtedly each of you participated in one or more of these activities and you probably were conscious of what was going on during the celebration week, consequently, I'll not go into the details of the program, however, I will mention a few of the functions that affected us here at the USO.

As you know we entered a float in the name of the USO in the recent Sesqui-Centennial Parade. This was made possible through the efforts of so many of you who helped get the greens, and did so much to help build it. To all of you fellows and girls who gave a helping hand we want to thank you. This float depicted a picnic scene and a home scene which we find so common in the activities of the USO. The theme of the float was "Home away from home". A large globe was arranged at the front of the trailer and was encircled with a banner of the USO. We were happy to be able to enter this float as a little show of our appreciation to the community for all of the fine things that they have done for us.

Using the same theme, a dance was held here on August 25. Decorations were of the Indian theme and thanks go to the small but efficient group who worked so hard at this task of decorating.

Although the street dances were not USO Sponsored, I think I shall mention them. I, for one, attended most of them and always we had our USO group there. We managed to take up a good portion of the "dance floor," and it almost seemed like one of the usual Thursday night dances held here.



SERVICEMAN OF THE MONTH

Ordinarily, each month, my duties as a reporter for the "Last Word" consists of interviewing several servicemen and in turn passing what I learned along to you. This month I seem to have been honored, for in addition to the above I have the privilege of interviewing the "Serviceman of the month."

I am certain you all know this man, but maybe I can add some facts that you don't know. He is 24 years of age having made his debut into society on May 5, 1931 and he hails from Concordia, Kansas, originally, but now claims Eugene, Oregon.

May 10, 1948, found him in the service of Uncle Sam and since that time his travels have been quite extensive. Seattle claimed him for a while, (but not anymore), then San Diego, Japan, China, Korea, Hawaii, points on the East Coast at various times and now Astoria has laid claim to him for about 4 months.

In interviewing a serviceman we always find out their likes, at least part of them, so this one shall not be different. Foreign foods of most any kind, but particularly Italian, Spanish, and Chinese dishes are as good as gone if found within his reach. He enjoys soft background music and as far as dancing goes, the rhumba "shows him the most." He likes all kinds of sports and if time permits chances are you might find him enjoying a game of "cow pasture pool."

Where there is a crowd of people you will probably find this friendly serviceman for people are one of his likes (girls that is). One can see this manifested in the fact that he always attends the weekly outings sponsored by the USO, always takes his 1949 brightly polished black Chevrolet, always has a carload of happy people, and enjoys himself always. His theory is that if you laugh, the world laughs at.... er.... with you. Being on the subject of picnics, etc., I might add that food cooked over the open fire and "embers" are considered to be "terrific" in his estimation.

I haven't told you his name as yet, however, if you haven't guessed it by now, I'll give you another clue, after which I am sure you can't miss. He is 6'3" tall, and weighs in at 218 pounds. I knew you couldn't miss. You're right, it's none other than Keith Wilcox, Personnelman First Class. The future for "Willy"? "Naples in 2 years with weekends in Paris" and retirement from the Navy in a little over twelve years. "Terrific!"

By Louise Brenner

GIRLS OF THE MONTH

Girl of the month for August is Maureen Loop, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Loop. Maureen is a trim 5'6", eyes of brown and is a native Astorian. Lucky girl!

Maureen is a 1955 graduate of Astoria High and was "Salutatorian" of the class of '55.

This was Maureen's first experience at being "Girl of the Month" and was really a surprised young lady when she found out. Congratulations, Maureen.

Ranking high on Maureen's list of favorites are spaghetti, her favorite food, and "Piddley, Patter Patter", her favorite song. You will often find Maureen sitting next to a juke box or radio listening to her favorite song.

We all congratulate you, Maureen, on your fine work. Keep it up.

By Fairy Vaughan

Our congratulations this month go to Ernestine Peterson (known as Ernie) who first opened those big baby blue eyes on March 15, 1937. She is a native Astorian of Swedish and Norwegian descent. She has typical blonde hair which is close cropped.

Her favorite song seems to be "Boston Fantasy" and when it comes to food, fried chicken is tops. When I asked her what her hobby was she said "sewing and teasing (toothless) Jim."

You usually see her in the corner of the hall making popcorn on Tuesday nights and that big smile she throws seems to make friends with boys from all around. She is 5'9" tall and graduated from Astoria High this year. She has two younger brothers and a sister of whom most of you probably have heard.

I'm sorry to say she will be leaving September 17 for nurse's training in Olympia, Washington. I'm sure we'll all miss her but she says she will be back on weekends occasionally.

I asked her what she thought of the USO and she said she likes it and thinks everyone is nice.

By: JoAnn Carlson

MEET THE BOYS!!

When I see a certain face or faces around the USO, participating quite actively in USO projects, I'm always anxious to find out some more information about them. About the best way to find out this information is to ask the fellow himself so I did just that and I'll pass what vital statistics I learned along to you.

First of all let me introduce Jim Leiper who hails from Belleville, Illinois. Jim was born January 9, 1935 and exactly 17 years later to the day he signed his contract with Uncle Sam. He has now been wearing his blue uniform for 3 years and 9 months which means he will join civilian life in the not too distant future. His travels in the Navy have taken him to Honolulu, Midway, Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Central America, and Canada.

Jim joined us in Astoria on July 1, 1955 and I'm afraid his stay is to be short for he expects to leave this fair city about November first. He seems to be quite pleased with his duty here for he likes a small town and enjoys the friendliness of the people here.

His likes are many. He prefers classical music which was music to my ears after receiving the reply of "western music" most of the time when I ask that question. He enjoys many sports, particularly football, wrestling, baseball, and swimming. In case anyone cares to challenge him to a boxing match, I might let you in on a little secret before you get too hasty. You see, Jim was the Santa Clara County Golden Gloves Boxing Champ in 1949, 1950, and 1951. This boxer is 6 feet tall, has blond hair and brown eyes and weighs in at 161 pounds. Any challengers.

Wherever you find Jim you will probably also find with him another 6 footer with brown hair (graying at the temples) and blue eyes, weighing 175 pounds. That description fits none other than Leo Harold Judd Jr., who has been with us since May 1 this year. Harold joined society on December 3, 1935 in Sheffield, Alabama. One year and 7 days ago from the day of this interview he joined the Navy. Being relatively a newcomer he has not been sent out of the States as yet but after taking his basic at Great Lakes, Illinois, he was sent to San Diego, and then came here to Astoria.

Prior to joining the service Harold attended Florence State Teachers College in Florence, Alabama, taking up business administration. He is quite a musician for he plays the trumpet, French Horn, and baritone. If you find Harold eating at any time, it is just because he enjoys all kinds of good food, preferably highly spiced foods. They say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, so girls take note of the above vital statistics.

What does the future hold for Mr. Judd? Until August 23, 1958, he will undoubtedly be wearing the Navy uniform. After that. . . well he just might ship over and might make the Navy his career. Now there is some information for you in the Personnel Department.

I'm afraid that as with Jim Leiper, the near future will find Harold leaving our ranks also. We are going to miss both of you and your car with the whistle. Drop us a line, won't you, when you do depart company and keep us posted on the latest with you?

"A GOOD FRIEND SAYS GOODBYE"

"Parting is such sweet sorrow." So said the bard, and so say I as I take my leave of this community and my many fine friends in it.

Words fail me as I attempt to describe my mixed emotions in leaving Astoria for Vallejo, California. To the Staff and volunteers, all I can say is a fervent "Thanks". And to the servicemen "Come up and see me sometime when your ship comes in at Mare Island." My future address is Armed Services YMCA, Vallejo, California. I would certainly enjoy hearing from any of you who would care to drop a line.

Cordially,

FELIX MANTELL

PICNIC AT CRESCENT BEACH

Sunday, August 28, a group of about 24 of us went to Crescent Beach for a picnic. We went down in 4 cars and parked the cars at the parking lot at Ecola Park and hiked from there to Crescent Beach. Before having chow of hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings including cokes and hot coffee, we played games to while away the time and boost our appetites. We played volleyball, baseball, football, and horseshoes. Some of the more daring ventured to take a dip in the ocean. (But Lou, why are you so blue?) Several of us just lay around soaking up sun or shade as the case may be. There were a few photo-bugs snapping pictures. After lunch those who were not too full played more games and hunted starfish. We stayed at Crescent Beach long enough to see the sun set over the ocean, then we started the trip home which most of us resented. We arrived back at the USO about eight O'clock after an afternoon of fun, lunch, and relaxation at the beach.

COME ONE! COME ALL!

USO DANCES ON THURSDAYS!

USO RAMBLINGS by Mrs. Stone

Most of the summer we heard and read in the paper of the Regatta and the Sesqui-Centennial and the Salmon Derby. Time flies so rapidly that the Regatta and the Lewis and Clark Sesqui-Centennial are things of the past and we are in the midst of the Salmon Derby. For an interesting trip take a ride across the river on the ferry and note the license plates on the cars. Maybe you'll be surprised as I was to see the number of out of state cars and some of them a long long way from home. Have you been to the dock or to the mooring basin and seen some of those big slimy beauties that are being brought into the weighing station? Got any bets on the big ones?

We can look back, that is some of us, with a certain amount of pride to our entry in the big Regatta Parade. Yes, we were part of it. We took no honors, but did get lots of applause as we rolled slowly through the parade route. We also got lots of queries as we set off the balloons with the USO cards attached to them. I would like to add my personal thanks to all of the guys and gals who worked hard in decorating the float. It was lots of work...hard work as well. My special thanks go to the servicemen and GSO girls who rode on the float. They felt enough responsibility to the USO to deny themselves the pleasure of watching a very fine parade, a parade of bands, several of them, marching units and beautiful floats. Thanks so much for giving to the USO so much of yourselves.

Did you enjoy our Sesqui-Centennial dance? Thanks to Ann Schairer and her Committee for such timely decorations. We were honored in having as our special guests, Miss Sacajawea, Connie Winterstien, and one of her court, Donna Talfour and their chaperone Mrs. Frank Fowler.

We took time at this dance to honor someone who has done so much for the USO, a friend to the servicemen, GSO and Senior hostesses alike - Felix Mantell - we hate to see him go, but we are glad that he has an opportunity to do for a larger USO what he did for us. We know those with whom he works will soon come to love and respect him as we have done. Good luck to you and your family Mr. Felix A. Mantell.

While we've had to say farewell to Felix, his going has given us a chance to meet a new personality, Mr. Don Kent, who will be with us as director for the next few months. Mr. Kent comes to us from Tacoma, Washington USO where he is the Program director. Those of you who

attended the Thursday night dance August 11 met Mr. Kent and enjoyed the games he sponsored during intermission. Come on back and get better acquainted with him. He, no doubt, has lots of wonderful program ideas up his sleeve.

September means school days doesn't it? A few of our girls will be leaving us to attend schools elsewhere. We all hope that college and nursing school comes up to your expectations, and good luck to you all. We will miss you but will keep hoping to see you during vacations.

SONG

DEDICATIONS

To Ann W. - "Pennsylvania 65000"

To Evelyn - "Two Hearts"

To Fairy - "It May Sound Silly"

To Ernestine - "She'll Be Coming Around The Mountain".

To Annie S. - "Tea for Two" "Don't Let the Kitty Get In"

To Lou Brenner - "Blue Moon" from you know who

To Ruthie - "Jailhouse Blues"

To Cleo - "Cleo"

To Virginia - "Playmate"

To Verna - "Young at Heart" (and so am I) K.W.

To Maureen - "Wake the Town and Tell the People".

To Patrone and Gloria - "Remember" the Top of the Mark this October from Ferd (I hope).

To Doug from all of us at the USO - Music Maestro, Please"

To Harold Judd - "Never Look Back"

From Bill D. to Jim B. - "Those Wedding Bells are Breaking up That Old Gang of Mine".

To Alex Visaya - "Fillipino Baby"

CHIT CHAT

I shall chat to you a bit about the vacation I had in August as I saw and talked to several people you readers may be interested in hearing about.

I took the Shasta Daylight train to San Francisco from Portland. That is a beautiful trip especially when the weather is clear and sunny as it was when I went down.

I visited with Gloria Nichols, Astoria GSO Girl of the Year for '53, a week. While there I was most surprised to have "Pat" Patrone call me. He got out of the Navy early and was in his native city of San Francisco. He took in a few of the sights with Gloria and I. I called Vern McDougalls home in Albany and had another surprise --- He was home on leave after finishing store-keeper school in San Diego. His next tour of duty is Guam. You may not believe this, knowing Vern, that he was wishing he could return to Tongue Point. I also saw Pat Newell, another of our former GSO girls.

A week later I had to leave the foggy city, too soon, and head south. Gloria and I flew to Burbank where Hal Simpson, ex-Mariner leader and trumpet man, met us. We spent the weekend visiting him and his parents and family in Gardena. Three nights we listened to Dixie Land Jazz, as Hal plays in a band. It was good to hear Hal play again. While there Hal took us to Long Beach where we visited Bob and Jo Krause and family. Bob was the one to be surprised this time. When he opened the door and saw me, he about yelled "Holy Cow, Vernini!". It was wonderful seeing these kids again.

Gloria had to get back to S. F., and I to seeing more people. This time to Newport Beach to see my sister who was in a hospital there. Newport Beach is the place for a vacation. Of what I saw of California that looked best. While there I called the Norman residence and was lucky enough to get Bob at home. Civilian life really has agreed with him. He really looks good. Bob took a day off to show me around, which I thought was real nice of him.

I missed seeing Uncle Dud and Jack Ries by a day. They had been up to the hospital the night before I got there.

I could easily have used two extra weeks of vacation. I had the most wonderful time and only because everyone was so considerate and friendly. I really appreciated it.

By the way, I flew home and now agree with most of you --- that is the way to travel.

We had one of our former Jr. Hostesses home for a visit --- Edna (Stone) Ross. She and her baby girl, Lori, were up from Highland, Indiana for about 3 weeks. Edna looked wonderful, and the baby is one of the cutest -- natural curly brown hair and big blue eyes. We really enjoyed seeing Edna again.

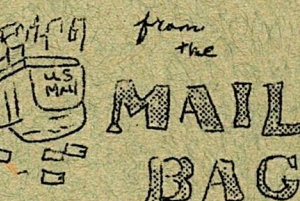
Pat Hauer, another of our girls, was home for the Labor Day holidays. She is now living and employed in Seattle.

As most of you know we lost our Director, Felix Mantell, to the Vallejo Armed Services YMCA. We certainly regrette his leaving us as we think he was one of the best. As we tell the fellows, to you too Mr. Mantell, we say "the best of luck and write us sometime."

By Verna Hutonen

Hi! from Ken Perdew, who is now in Guam.

Hello from Jack Reis, who is still in Coronado.



Heard from "Doc" Brenner and he says Hello to all his friends. He is now enjoying civilian life in Barberton, Ohio.

TO EVERYONE

Bye for now and I'll see you about Christmas time (I hope). I'm leaving September 18th and I wish someone would write to me -- guys and gals --. I know I'll be homesick. My address will be:

Ernesteen Peterson
St. Peters Hospital
Nurses Home
Olympia, Washington

I've had lots of fun in the short time I've belonged to the G.S.O. and I've met a lot of nice guys and gals.

Special Byes to Verna, Fred, Jim, Smitty, Judd, and all the rest I know and who know me.

Love from,
Ernie

P.S. I'll always remember the name Toolie! (Wonder why?)

ENTER THE U.S.O. FOOTBALL CONTEST
OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
-Free- OF THE ARMED SERVICES
Starts September 17 Runs 10 Weeks
WEEKLY PRIZE OF FREE PHONE CALL HOME